



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
YOUTH COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUREAU
POLICY**

Policy No.: YCC 4.2.2	Subject: SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH
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Section 2: Classification	Revision Date: 05-15-03, 01-09-06, 11-23-07, 10-10-08, 01-06-09
Applicable ACA Standards: 2-7146, 2-7228	
Signature: /s/ <i>Karen Duncan</i>	Effective Date: 12-31-02
Signature: /s/ <i>Steve Gibson</i>	

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Youth Community Corrections (YCC) bureau to identify, within 30 days of the youth's arrival at the secure care facility or as soon thereafter as possible, all youth having special needs, and to attempt to provide appropriate programs and services to those youth upon their release to parole supervision. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All YCC facilities and programs

III. DEFINITIONS:

None

IV. BUREAU DIRECTIVES:

The YCC bureau will review the service needs of the population under supervision, including those with special needs, annually. Youth with special needs may include, but are not limited to, individuals who are chemically dependent, have committed a sex offense, have addictive disorders, or are emotionally disturbed, mentally ill, developmentally disabled or physically handicapped. Ordinarily, special needs youth are identified during intake and classification at the secure facility.

A. Identification

At reception or orientation, staff may use the following data and techniques to determine the special needs of youth:

1. Review of reports to the court;
2. Interviews;
3. Records of tests such as IQ tests to screen for developmental disabilities and personality tests to screen for mental illness or emotional disturbances;
4. A review of the youth's personal history;

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5. Reports of medical and psychological screening and examinations;
6. Exchanging information with the secure facility case manager; and
7. Direct observation by juvenile parole officers.

B. Programming

Every possible effort will be made to place youth with special needs in an appropriate setting. Programming in the community setting may include, but not be limited to, the following as provided by professionals meeting license or certificate requirements for their respective discipline:

1. Substance-abuse counseling and educational programs;
2. Outpatient sex offender therapy;
3. Social and vocational programs to maximize the potential of the developmentally disabled;
4. Psycho-therapeutic treatment to address problems arising from a mental disorder;
5. Special programs, therapy, or physical aids for handicapped youth;
6. Supportive counseling for special needs youth in all categories;
7. Placement of youth with severe problems in the most appropriate setting available.
8. If suicide risk is identified, youth will be referred for appropriate therapy, medication, and placement.

V. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the youth community corrections bureau chief.

VI. REFERENCES:

[53-1-203 MCA](#) [Powers and Duties of the Department of Corrections](#)

VII. ATTACHMENTS:

None